## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

Advisory Groups and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani

Bill Bagdon

DATE: November 20, 1998

RE: Access to Care by Age

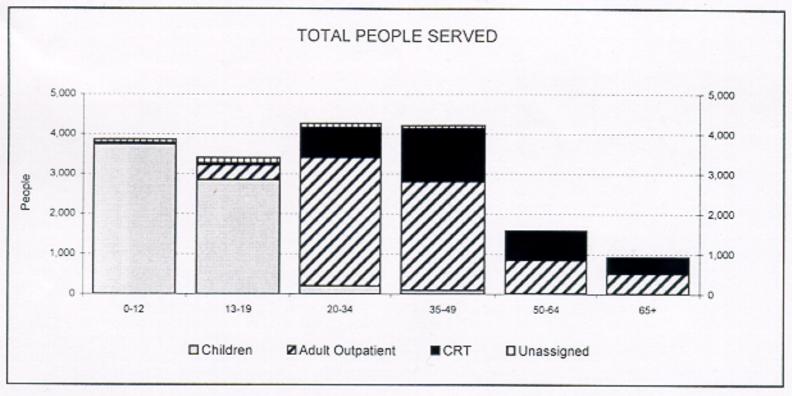
The draft recommendations of the Children's Mental Health Advisory Group (and the federal reporting guidelines that will be guiding our new 16 State Performance Indicator Project) call for the publication of per-capita utilization rates for people in different age groups. The attached graphs and tables present age specific community mental health non-residential utilization rates for Vermont as a whole, and for each of our ten service areas.

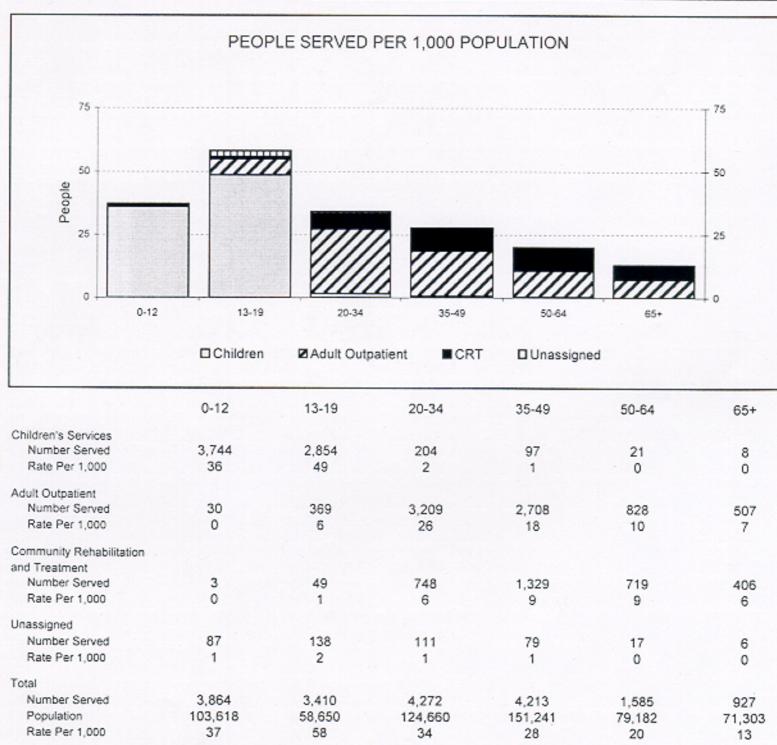
As you will see, older children and adolescents have the highest utilization rate statewide (58 per 1,000 population), followed by younger children (37 per 1,000) and young adults (34 per 1,000). Utilization rates decrease steadily with increasing age among adults. Most community mental health centers conform to this pattern of age specific utilization rates, although there are very large differences in utilization rates for individual age groups.

We will be interested in your thoughts regarding the clarity of the data presentation. Is this an appropriate use of the "kite diagram" presentation that was recommended by both advisory groups? As always, we will be interested in your interpretation of these results and your suggestions for other indicators of access to care, practice patterns, and treatment outcomes that can be derived from existing data sources. Please e-mail your comments and suggestions to <a href="mailto:pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us">pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us</a>, or give one of us a call (802-241-2638 for John, or ...2682 for Bill).

## **Enclosures**

## COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS SERVED BY AGE: TOTAL AND PER 1,000 POPULATION, FY1996

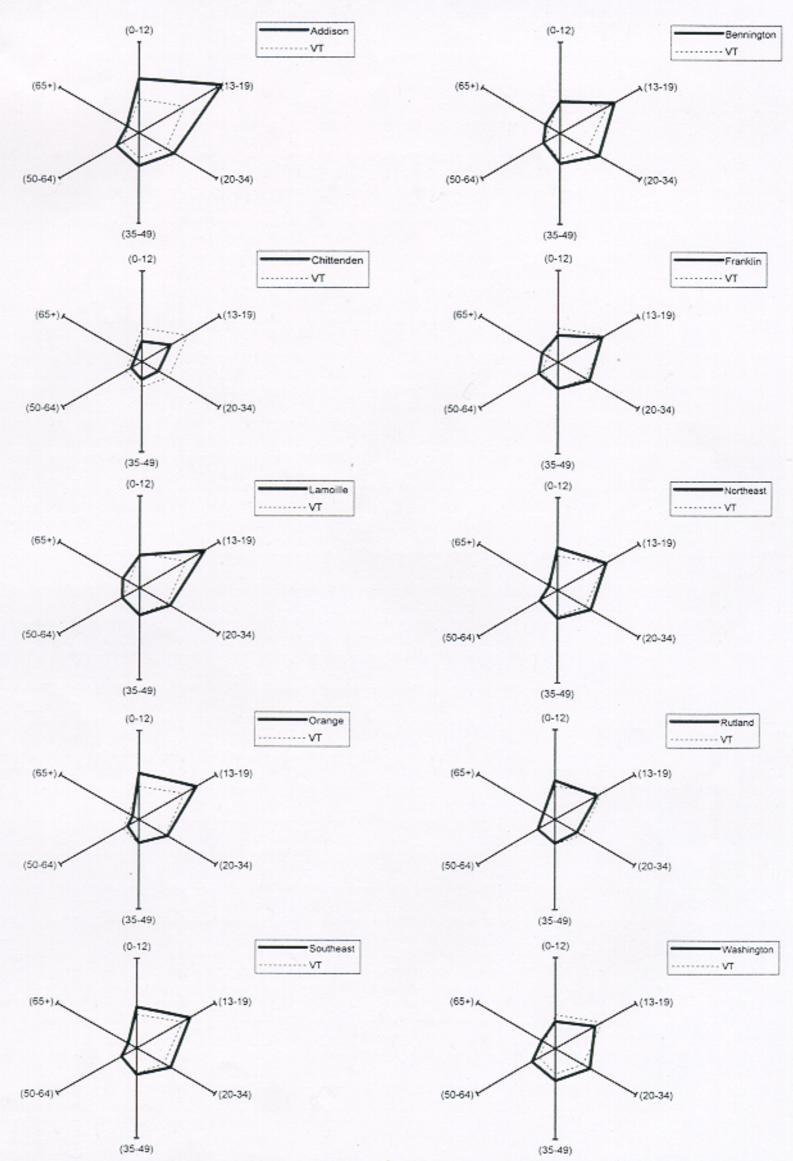




Total people served is based on quarterly service reports submitted by Vermont's community service providers. The 1996 population figures are based on estimates published by the Vermont Department of Health and the Center for Rural Studies at the University of Vermont. Individuals served by more than one agency are counted more than once.

DDMHS,R&S,wmb, 11/18/1998

## COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CLIENTS SERVED PER 1,000 POPULATION BY REGION and AGE, FY1996



Per capita figures are based on the number of clients represented in Quarterly Service Reports (QSR) submitted by Vermont's community service providers, and population figures published by the Vermont Department of Health.